



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 15

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 5359

House of Representatives, March 3, 2015

The Committee on Insurance and Real Estate reported through REP. MEGNA of the 97th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY ACUPUNCTURISTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 38a-507 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

3 Each individual health insurance policy delivered, issued for
4 delivery, renewed, amended or continued in this state shall provide
5 coverage for services rendered by (1) a chiropractor licensed under
6 chapter 372 to the same extent coverage is provided for services
7 rendered by a physician, if such chiropractic services [(1)] (A) treat a
8 condition covered under such policy, and [(2)] (B) are within those
9 services a chiropractor is licensed to perform, and (2) an acupuncturist
10 licensed under chapter 384c to the same extent coverage is provided
11 for services rendered by a physician, if such acupuncturist services (A)
12 treat a condition covered under such policy, and (B) are within those
13 services an acupuncturist is licensed to perform.

14 Sec. 2. Section 38a-534 of the general statutes is repealed and the
15 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

16 Each group health insurance policy providing coverage of the type
17 specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (6) and (11) of section 38a-469,
18 delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in this
19 state shall provide coverage for services rendered by (1) a chiropractor
20 licensed under chapter 372 to the same extent coverage is provided for
21 services rendered by a physician, if such chiropractic services [(1)] (A)
22 treat a condition covered under such policy, and [(2)] (B) are within
23 those services a chiropractor is licensed to perform, and (2) an
24 acupuncturist licensed under chapter 384c to the same extent coverage
25 is provided for services rendered by a physician, if such acupuncturist
26 services (A) treat a condition covered under such policy, and (B) are
27 within those services an acupuncturist is licensed to perform.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	38a-507
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	38a-534

INS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits (State Employee and Retiree Health Accounts)	GF, TF - Cost	Up to \$751,482	Up to \$1,502,964

GF & TF = General Fund and Special Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Various Municipalities	Cost	Up to \$457,113	Up to \$914,227

Explanation

The bill will result in a cost to the state employee and retiree health plan (state plan)¹ and municipalities, of up to \$751,482 in FY 16 and \$1,502,964 in FY 17 to the state and up to \$457,113 in FY 16 and \$914,227 in FY 17 for municipalities for providing coverage for the treatment by a licensed acupuncturist to the same extent as a physician for conditions already covered by the state and municipal health plans.²

Municipal Impact

As previously stated, the bill may increase costs to certain fully insured, municipal plans that do not currently adhere to the coverage requirements of the bill. The coverage requirements may result in an

¹ The state employee and retiree health plan is a self-insured health plan. Pursuant to federal law, self-insured health plans are exempt from state health mandates. However, the state has traditionally adopted all state health mandates. Total number of covered lives as of January 2015 was 208,745.

² Estimate assumes a per member per month impact of up to \$0.60.

uncertain increased premium cost when municipalities enter into new health insurance contracts after January 1, 2016. In addition, many municipal health plans are recognized as “grandfathered” health plans under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).³ It is unclear what effect the adoption of certain health mandates will have on the grandfathered status of certain municipal plans under ACA. Pursuant to federal law, self-insured health plans are exempt from state health mandates.

For the purposes of the ACA the coverage provision included in the bill is not considered an additional mandate and therefore will not result in an additional state cost related to reimbursement for the mandate for those covered through the exchange plans.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: Office of the State Comptroller

³ Grandfathered plans include most group insurance plans and some individual health plans created or purchased on or before March 23, 2010.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5359*****AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY ACUPUNCTURISTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires certain health insurance policies to cover acupuncturist services to the same extent they cover physician services, as long as the acupuncturist is (1) treating a condition already covered under the policy and (2) licensed to perform the services.

The bill applies to all individual policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut. It also applies to group policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut that cover (1) basic hospital expenses, (2) basic medical-surgical expenses, (3) major medical expenses, (4) hospital or medical services, or (5) accidents only. Due to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act, state insurance mandates do not apply to self-insured benefit plans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 4 (02/17/2015)